

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on March 10, 2004. Claims 1 – 10 are currently pending in the application. Applicant amends the specification and claims 1 and 9. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in Applicants' specification at page 8, line 16 through page 9, line 16.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRIORITY CLAIM

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document (Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-014707).

OBJECTIONS TO SPECIFICATION

The specification is objected to with regard to certain informalities. Applicants thank the Examiner for suggesting amendments to the specification to address these informalities, and amend the specification accordingly. As a result, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 1 – 5, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,529,159 to Fan et al. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Fan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,584,320 to Kawamoto. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,677,894 to Sheynblat et al. Applicants amend claim 1 to further clarify the nature of their invention, amend claim 9 to better conform to the terms used in claim 1, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

In independent claim 1, Applicants disclose a server system for distributing information to portable mobile information terminals in a specific area, including: a) a first data base for storing information of the specific area where the information distribution service is provided to registered users of the portable mobile information terminals, b) a second data base for storing prepared information to be distributed and distribution conditions of an information provider for distributing the prepared information, c) a third data base for storing registration information of the registered users and receiving conditions for receiving the distributed information, d) means for receiving position information from the portable mobile information terminals of the registered users, e) determining means for determining whether the received position information is located in the specified area stored in the first data base; and f) information distribution means for determining whether the distribution conditions stored in the second data base and the receiving conditions of said registered users stored in the third data base are satisfied, and distributing the prepared information to the portable mobile information terminals of the registered users located in the specified area when the distribution conditions and the receiving conditions are satisfied. Notably, distribution conditions include a designation of the specified area and at least one of a designated distribution time period, a registered user category, registered user preferences, and an information medium type (see, e.g., page 8, line 31 through page 9, line 3 of Applicants' specification).

Fan discloses a method for distributing locating-relevant information to a wireless user from a server and returning location-relevant information of a wireless user to a server, based on

a specified GPS position of the wireless user (see, e.g., abstract and FIG. 1 of Fan). Fan employs a data processing unit 38 in the server that maintains positional information for mobile users in order to determine which outbound data packages are to be delivered to which mobile users.

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Fan fails to explicitly disclose a second database that stores distribution conditions of an information provider, and a third database that stores receiving conditions of registered users. As Fan teaches means by which a user may make an active query to obtain information of a specified type (information "pull"; see, e.g., FIGs. 12, 13 and column 7, lines 6 – 30 of Fan), Fan effectively teaches away from Applicants' claimed means for collecting and storing receiving conditions of a user to for determining whether to distribute information to the user (information "push"). Moreover, Fan fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed distribution conditions including and at least one of a designated distribution time period, a registered user category, registered user preferences, and an information medium type. These limitations are also neither disclosed nor suggested by combining Fan with Kawamoto and/or Sheynblat.

Accordingly, for the reasons cited above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by any combination of the references, and is therefore in condition for allowance. As claims 2 – 10 each depend from allowable claim 1, Applicants further submit that claims 2 – 10 are allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 – 10, consisting of independent claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested

to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further
Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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